

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 3, 10, 11, 15, 18, 25, and 26 will have been amended. In addition, claims 4-8, 12-14, and 16 will have been canceled without disclaimer of the subject matter. New dependent claim 27 has been added for consideration by the Examiner.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for attaching the Notice of References Cited and PTO-1449 form, the form having been appropriately initialed by the Examiner to indicate consideration of the listed documents.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to the specification for failing to include a period at the end of the final sentence. The Examiner also objected to the Fig. 1 of the drawings for including reference characters 156-158, which appear to not be listed in the specification. Applicants have amended paragraph 0049 to add a period at the end of the paragraph's final sentence. Additionally, Applicants have amended paragraph to 0025 to add a sentence referring to reference characters 156-158 of Fig. 1. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added to the specification, but the amendment to paragraph 0025 merely renders the specification even more consistent with the drawings. Further, support for the amendment is clearly evident in, for example, Fig. 1.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 18, 21, 22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by AKINPELU et al. (U.S. Patent No.

5,661,792). The Examiner also rejected claims 2, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKINPELU et al. in view of COCHRANE et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,828). The Examiner also rejected claims 3 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKINPELU et al. in view of KUNG (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,452). The Examiner also rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKINPELU et al. in view of BOUGHMAN (U.S. Patent No. 6,570,973). The Examiner also rejected claims 8 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKINPELU et al. in view of ZEBRYK (U.S. Patent No. 4,975,942). The Examiner also rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKINPELU et al. in view of COCHRANE et al., further in view of KUNG. The Examiner also rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKINPELU et al. in view of COCHRANE et al., further in view of BOUGHMAN et al. The Examiner also rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKINPELU et al. in view of COCHRANE et al., further in view of ZEBRYK. Applicants respectfully traverse.

AKINPELU et al. fails to disclose receiving a request for an identity of the caller's local service provider, the call having been suspended at a switch of an interexchange carrier...sending a notification to the sender comprising identifying information of the identified local service provider of the caller and whether an agreement exists between the identified local service provider and the interexchange carrier, as recited in claim 1. Further, AKINPELU et al. fails to disclose monitoring integrated services digital network

user part signaling traffic of a carrier for initial address messages and sending a request to an LNP database when the monitoring detects the telephone call, based on a telephone number of the caller, to determine which of a plurality of databases to query, as recited in claims 10 and 25. AKINPELU et al. also fails to disclose a gateway comprising a plurality of platforms configured to dynamically load share requests, as recited in claim 18.

Applicants note that they have not acquiesced in the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but have amended the claims solely in order to expedite prosecution and to enhance clarity. Applicants have also canceled claims 4-8, 12, 14, and 16 without disclaimer of the subject matter.

In addition, Applicants have added new dependent claim 27 for consideration by the Examiner. New claims 27 adds no prohibited new matter and recites features not taught by the prior art. Support for claim 27 may be found, for example, at paragraphs 0041-0043 of the specification of the present application.

The features of claims 1, 10, 18, and 25 are distinct from AKINPELU et al. Thus, AKINPELU et al. is submitted to be deficient in view of the recitations of the claims. Further, none of the other references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in any proper combination, supply the deficiencies of AKINPELU et al.

Thus, Applicants submit that claims 1-25 are now in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 2, 3, 9, 11, 15, 17, 19, 20-24, and 26-27, Applicants assert that they are allowable on their own merit, in addition to being allowable by

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depending either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 10, 18, or 25, which Applicants have shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of the claims, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the claims in view of the present remarks.

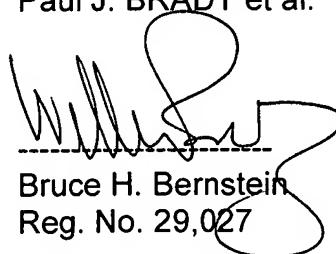
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicants have amended the claims and argued the allowability of the claims with respect to the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the recited claims are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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